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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Finland/USSR

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SUBJECT Tour of Soviet Officer through Northern Finland

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. In October 1949 two Soviet officers, Major General Tokaryev and Lt. Col. Tsarenov, made a conducted tour of Finland. They arrived on the morning of 13 October at Tornea with two Finnish officers, Maj. Gen. Oinonen and Maj. Janhia. From Tornea they proceeded further north along the Swedish-Finnish border to Pello, where they spent the night at a private home.
2. On 14 October they continued their journey to Ffrontekio, where they were guests of juryman Ohman and rector Kallio. At this time Peltovuoma was also visited; the night was spent at the Punkari Inn, Karesuando. On 15 October they arrived at Kilpisjarvi, where the Russians and Maj. Gen. Oinonen were overnight guests of one Viik, a forester. Maj. Janhia and the chauffeurs were quartered in the military barracks.
3. On their return trip, 16 October, the party arrived at Sarkijarvi at 1730 hours, where they stayed at the military cantonment overnight. On 17 October they went in the direction of Rovaniemi, staying at Pohjanhovi Hotel. On 18 October at 0900 hours the party visited the staff officer of the Lappland's border patrol at Rovaniemi. After the visit they continued to Kemijarvi, where the 1st Company, Border Guard, served as host. On the morning of 19 October they went to Kuusamo, via Joutsijarvi and Karhujarvi.
4. The reason for Tokaryev's visit to northern Finland appears to have been his desire to become acquainted with conditions in Lappland, especially the road communication. With regard to the border guard, Tokarjev felt that the 500 men who comprised the 4th Company were entirely insufficient and that the strength should be increased at least to fifteen companies. Tokarjev showed interest in the road communications east of Rovaniemi, the Salla railroad, and general traffic conditions. He said that the Salla railroad's present condition was partly due to the suspension of deliveries of English bridge building material; Tokarjev stated that this material was now on order at the firm O/Y Vartsila A/B.

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5. Tokarjev showed special interest in the communication between Kittila and Sodankyla, taking note that at the midway point there was a section allowing for only one-way traffic. He also indicated interest in communication possibilities between Rovaniemi, Savukoski and the Arctic Highway. He further advised repairs on the road Kelottijarvi-Hirvasvuopio-Kautokasino.

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